

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, ranking members Miner and France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Carol R. Wade. I am from New Haven CT. I am a member of CONECT Do Not Stand Idly By Gun Violence Prevention program, and the Unitarian Society of Greater New Haven Preventing Gun Violence Task Force.

I am testifying in support of the \$3.6 million included in the Governor's budget adjustment bill for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence prevention programs.

Data shows that, on average, someone in CT is murdered with a gun once every three days.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue to occur. Our children and all of our citizen's cannot endure this.

Communities that are safe from gun violence also help to create racial justice in our state. We must begin to allocate significant funds to community-based prevention and intervention programs for gun violence.

While I commend the Governor for proposing \$3.6 million to fund community gun violence prevention programs, I urge the legislature to do more. It should create an Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the Department of Public Health, and commit to more substantial levels of funding.

Sincerely,

Carol R. Wade

New Haven, CT